
Media information

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Volkswagen sets course for green electricity to power all freight carried on Deutsche Bahn

- Volkswagen Group aiming for all rail transport of materials and vehicles inside Germany to be run 100% on green electricity by the start of 2021
- Switch-over to reduce CO₂ by 26,700 tonnes compared to using the standard German electricity mix
- More Group vehicles are also set to go by rail in future: percentage due to rise from 53 today to 60 per cent in 2022
- Thomas Zernechel, Head of Volkswagen Group Logistics: “Important contribution to Group decarbonisation”

Wolfsburg, September 8, 2020 – Volkswagen Group Logistics is switching all Deutsche Bahn carriage of materials and vehicles within Germany to green electricity by the start of 2021. This will cut over 26,700 tonnes of CO₂ emissions a year compared to the conventional electricity mix. 95 per cent of all such transportation is already powered by green electricity. In addition even more freight is set to go by rail: Volkswagen aims to increase vehicle transportation by train from 53 per cent today up to 60 per cent by 2022. “With this green electricity offensive we are making an important contribution towards Group decarbonisation”, says Thomas Zernechel, Head of Volkswagen Group Logistics. For this purpose, Deutsche Bahn feeds in electricity from wind farms and hydropower plants.



Volkswagen Group Logistics is switching all Deutsche Bahn carriage of materials and vehicles within Germany to green electricity by the start of 2021. One of the freights: the ID.3¹

He continues: “No car maker in Europe transports more freight by rail using renewable electric power than Volkswagen. In addition to our electric vehicle production having a carbon-neutral footprint, this is a further element in being able, for instance, to hand vehicles from the Volkswagen ID range to customers without any CO₂ baggage.”

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When operations are running normally, over 190,000 freight wagons a year are in use for Volkswagen. On average 38 long-distance and 157 local trains a day deliver materials to the plants - in total around 100,000 wagons a year. Meanwhile, around 90,000 wagons take approximately 900,000 vehicles from the plants to 40 interim storage facilities, distribution centres and ports. The brands transported in this way are Volkswagen Passenger Cars, AUDI, ŠKODA, SEAT, Porsche and Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles.

“Each ton being transported by rail automatically reduces CO₂ emissions by 80%. By making this switch, Volkswagen is sending out a strong signal and giving its backing to 100% green transportation with no CO₂ emissions. That pleases us as DB Cargo and will please our environment even more”, says Dr Sigrid Evelyn Nikutta, DB Freight Transport Director and Chair of DB Cargo.

¹⁾ ID.3 – combined power consumption in kWh/100 km (NEDC): 15.4-14.5, CO₂ emissions in g/km: 0; efficiency class: A+



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About the Volkswagen Group:

Based in Wolfsburg, Germany, the Volkswagen Group is one of the world's leading carmakers and the largest car manufacturer in Europe. Twelve brands from seven European countries belong to the Group: Volkswagen Passenger Cars, Audi, SEAT, ŠKODA, Bentley, Bugatti, Lamborghini, Porsche, Ducati, Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles, Scania and MAN. The passenger car portfolio ranges from small cars all the way to luxury-class vehicles. Ducati offers motorcycles. In the light and heavy commercial vehicles sector, the products include ranges from pick-ups, buses and heavy trucks. Every weekday, 671,205 employees around the globe produce on average 44,567 vehicles, are involved in vehicle-related services or work in other areas of business. The Volkswagen Group sells its vehicles in 153 countries.

In 2019, global deliveries of Group vehicles amounted to 10,97 million units (2018: 10,83 million units). The passenger car global market share was 12.9 per cent. Group turnover in 2019 was 252.6 billion euros (2018: 236 billion euros). Earnings after tax in the last trading year were 14.0 billion euros (2018: 12.2 billion euros).

About Volkswagen Group Logistics

Volkswagen Group Logistics organises, coordinates and is responsible globally for the shipping of around 5.6 million vehicles and 175,000 containers a year. Across Europe more than 75 million cubic metres of car parts are dispatched annually. Over 750 people work in Group Logistics. It is thus one of the ten largest logistics services providers in Germany.
